



November 2011

AROUND THE PARISH

A THANKFUL THANKSGIVING

The Sunday before Thanksgiving was a cold snowy day that made you think of the previous summer, and wonder if the sunshine would come out before another week passed. I guess it was one of the things that made living in Michigan a challenge. The ever changeable weather! As we gathered around the table to eat that afternoon we were making our plans for Thanksgiving dinner, and who was bringing what. We always tried to invite a new family from church over, thinking perhaps they would be alone on Thanksgiving in a new area.

"Mom," our youngest son said, "did you notice Mrs. Mitchell sitting in church today? She was blowing into her handkerchief and wiping her eyes."

Our daughter said she thought it must be because her son had just died. I was stunned. My husband and I looked at one another and asked how she knew about this, we hadn't heard a thing! We knew about her son; but only that he had been wounded in the war, and didn't live in the area.

"I guess she hasn't seen him for a while, he lived some place in another state, and I only knew about it because Rene's Dad was helping her with the burial arrangements," our daughter finished.

I thought about the prayer chain that was used for everything from an illness with a newborn to someone who had been diagnosed with cancer, and yet nobody had shared a thing about Mrs. Mitchell and her son. As the meal ended I spoke with my husband, and he said he would call Rene's Dad and talk with him.

I knew Mrs. Mitchell wouldn't be at the evening service that night, she hardly ever ventured out after dark, but something was telling me I should stop by to see her. My husband agreed, he said his telephone conversation had assured him that her son had been in and out of the hospital a number of times; and last week Mrs. Mitchell received a call from the

authorities that he had fought his last battle.

"Oh dear," I exclaimed. "How could she handle this alone? I'm going over to see her right now." I told my husband as I reached for my keys, purse and coat. "I'll take some of these brownies and tell her I was thinking of her and just wanted to stop by."

The snow was still coming down as I rang the front door bell of the old Victorian house on Main Street. Mrs. Mitchell had been widowed for over ten years, and yet she was a sweet and loving lady, always ready to help out when she could.

"Hello dear," a smile appeared on the kindly wrinkled older face. "What on earth are you doing out on this cold night?" She asked ushering me into the foyer.

"I was thinking about you today and one of the boys said he saw you in church and thought you might have a cold. I just wanted to bring some brownies by to see how you were feeling." I gently said.

She invited me in for some hot tea and we talked about some of the coming church functions and then she said she'd like to share something with me. I prepared myself to listen to a mother's heart as she bravely spoke.

Her son had been a Vietnam veteran and was battling some type of disease and emotional problems from his years during the war. He was in and out of the VA Hospital in the state where he resided. She had sent him a card inviting him to have Thanksgiving and Christmas with her, as she was all alone. And then she received the call from the hospital about his death. She knew she couldn't make the trip, and she and Rene's father made the arrangements with the Veterans Administration the week before. She said he had been to see her a few months ago, and they spoke on the telephone often, but his battle had been a hard one and she remembered their last conversation, and how he looked when he had been home. She would carry that memory of him in her heart. He would be laid to rest next to her late husband.

"I'm so very sorry, Mrs. Mitchell. I only wish you had told us, we would have been

over to help you in any way we could.” I felt it seemed like such a weak thing to say in view of the situation. “I do want you to plan to be with us on Thanksgiving, this Thursday, please plan to come. I don’t want you to be alone at this special time of year.”

“You know,” the silver haired lady smiled happily. “I would love it if you and your family would be my guest and come over and have dinner with me on Thursday. When my husband was alive we used to have several families from the area share that day with us, and I would enjoy thinking about the dinner, making pies, salads, cakes and the turkey. Will you say ‘yes’, it would make me so happy.” She was practically gleaming with excitement. I could see her mind was reliving memories that were special to her.

“Well, we have invited a new family from the church to come to our house for dinner, but I know they’d enjoy sharing the day with you too, and we certainly would, but are you sure you’re up to this crowd?” I was thoughtful of her doing too much.

“Of course I am. I’ve entertained all my life, and will enjoy doing this too. And it will give me something happy to think about. Actually, I’ll be ‘thankful’ to you for joining me on Thanksgiving.” I knew what she was saying and after talking a few minutes more I said “goodnight”, and told her I’d be in touch.

When I arrived home and told the children about going to Mrs. Mitchell’s for Thanksgiving dinner, they were all happy. Our oldest son said she had a great hill for sledding, and our daughter loved her big old house and Mrs. Mitchell was like a grandmother. I thought about our small home, but always happy to share with anyone who could come, and how happy Mrs. Mitchell looked when thinking about her Thanksgiving plans.

Later that evening as my husband and I were talking, I said it would be different not to get up early in the morning and put a turkey in the oven, but how Mrs. Mitchell had actually said she would be “thankful” if she could host the dinner at her home. I was grateful that at a sad time in someone’s life, that having a crowd for Thanksgiving dinner would help. Even in the cold snowy weather I felt the warmth from an older woman who in the face of loss, was reaching out to share with others.

SVDP FOOD DRIVE

Please join Sacred Heart’s St. Vincent de Paul Society in helping our friends at St. Joseph’s Outreach by donating canned or boxed goods on November 5th and 6th. Suggested items include: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, soup, canned fish, and instant potatoes. All donations must be sealed and have a valid expiration date. Members of SVDP will be accepting donations curbside at the main entrance of the Church before and after all Masses on November 5th & 6th. Thank you for helping us to help our neighbors!



Don’t forget to register your Giant Rewards Card and designate Sacred Heart School (school code: 04256) to receive A+ rewards points each time you shop! Visit www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus/ or call 1-888-488-4642 and register your card! Each dollar you spend at Giant will earn cash for our school and you don’t have to do anything more than your normal grocery shopping!

You can earn MORE POINTS for our school by purchasing the following: earn Triple Points on Healthy Idea TM labeled items and Double Points on other participating brands. So look for signs throughout the store as you shop!

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ronni Bruno

Leslie DeFazio

**Matthew & Chrissy Nolan and daughter
Peyton**

Cara Venezia

WELCOME OUR SEMINARIAN

John Anthony Hutta II will be here at Sacred Heart from now until May 2012 for a pastoral year. John was born on January 9th of 1989 to John and Diane Hutta at the Leighton Hospital. He has 3 siblings: his older sister JoLynn who is married with 2 children, his brother Shawn who is a year younger and his 10 year old brother Skyler. He enjoys spending time with his nephews as well as his grandmother Joyce.

John's hometown is Tamaqua and his home parish is Sacred Heart in Palmerton. He graduated from Tamaqua High School in 2008 and Alvernia University in 2011 with a BA in Philosophy and Theology and an Associate Degree in Bio-Chemistry.

As a young man he was asked about the vocation of priesthood by his parish priest. He visited Fr. Gene Ritz at the seminary. He went to college and felt that there was something missing in his life. He read *No Turning Back: Divine Mercy*. John realized that what was missing was God but felt that he was not worthy. He prayed the rosary daily, visited the Blessed Sacrament and asked God "where do you want me to be." John feels that the Eucharist brought him closer to Christ and applied to the seminary while in college. He has been accepted but is completing a pastoral year here at Sacred Heart.

John is very involved with Boy Scouts of America just recently earning his Wood Badge. He started his scouting as a Tiger Cub and became an Eagle Scout in 2006. He is also a member of the Order of the Arrow.

He enjoys reading many different genres of books, theatre going especially Broadway and De Sales, music where his taste runs from symphonies to Lady Gaga but definitely no rap or heavy metal, and fishing and camping.

John is a die-hard New York Yankee fan, roots for Notre Dame and Washington Redskin football and just loves soccer. He swam at Tamaqua Area High School and competed in 400 and 500 meter relay, 500 meter freestyle and 200 meter back stroke. He would love to swim all year round.

He plays the violin and the oboe and was in orchestra in high school and played with the Reading Youth Orchestra and the Schuylkill County Youth and Adult Orchestra. He has sung at both his parish and was in the Gregorian Choral Group as a

tenor under the direction of Jennie Mihalick at Alvernia.

John will be instrumental in nursing home visitation, teaching in both the school and religious ed, and many other tasks assigned by Monsignor. Please share with him the warmth of the Sacred Heart Parish family as he spends the year with us.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO...

The Matthews Family on the death of,
Sophie M. Matthews
9-24-11

The Weber Family on the death of,
Frank R. Weber
10-3-11

The Korecky Family on the death of,
Joan Korecky
10-3-11

The Dougherty Family on the death of,
Magdalen D. Dougherty
10-8-11

SENIOR NEWS

November's Senior Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7th at 1 PM in the Wachter Room. Martha Sitler will present "Remembering 1924" a slideshow. Refreshments to follow. Join the fun and bring a friend!

ATTN: SHOPS CUSTOMERS

The holiday season is here so don't forget to order your SCRIP cards to do your holiday shopping and to give out as gifts! We will stock a larger selection of gift cards from Great Lakes SCRIP from mid-November through the New Year including Barnes & Noble, Starbucks, Boscov's, Bon-Ton, Wawa, Olive Garden/Red Lobster, Chili's. We will publish a full list at the SHOPS office and at the fundraising desk in the Church. SHOPS will not be sold over Thanksgiving weekend so stock up early for Black Friday shopping! Cards will be sold at SHS through Tuesday, November 22nd.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES FOR MASS

RESPONSES UPDATED ACCORDING TO THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

GREETING

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

A - I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sister, that I have **greatly sinned**, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore** I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters to pray for me to the Lord our God.

- or -

B - *Priest:* Have mercy on us, O Lord.

People: For we have sinned against you.

Priest: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

People: And grant us your salvation.

- or -

C - Lord/Christ have mercy.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Deacon (or Priest): A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name for our good and good of all his holy Church.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

Priest: The mystery of faith.

People:

A- We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

- or -

B - When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

- or -

C - Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

SIGN OF PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

DAY OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

The Most Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the main altar of the church between the Sunday Masses, and will remain on the altar for public adoration after the 11:00 AM Mass until 4:00 PM.

**Vespers for the Solemnity of Christ the King
will be celebrated at 4 PM**

**Following Vespers, there will be a Procession with the
Blessed Sacrament, followed by Benediction.**

Come pray together with your fellow parishioners
and the faithful of Berks County,
with the priests and deacons of the Berks Deanery
as well as priests who have served Sacred Heart Parish
over the many years of the life of the parish.

There will be sign up sheets in the narthex of the church for half hour adoration.